

I fully support RM-10867 petition for restructuring Amateur Radio. I initially became interested in Amateur radio over 50 years ago. Between my father and uncle, I was provided all the equipment required. However, working as hard as I could, I never was able to master the Morse code requirement. Without a license, I was never able to use the transmitter. Even though this made me lose interest in Amateur Radio, I did pursue my curiosity in electronics. I obtained a degree in Electrical Engineering and recently retired after 40 years in the communications industry.

My interest in Amateur Radio was rekindled after retirement when I learned that code was no longer a requirement! I obtained my Technician ticket in 2002. My goal was to upgrade as quickly as possible so I could experience the many modes now available on HF. Once again I have been stonewalled because I still can not master the code requirement - even at 5 wpm. This is frustrating when you realize the equipment and software available today that allow you to operate ALL the digital modes - including CW - without knowing any code.

For 40 years the code requirement has kept me from providing the services and being a part of the technological advances that Amateur Radio provides. Please do not deny that privilege to the youngsters of today that have the same "code learning problem" I have. Please approve petition RM-10867 as it was submitted. Leaving the code requirement for Amateur Extra leaves us all a goal to someday achieve.